

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on November 8, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

### **ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Present: Commissioners Craft\*, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Draper

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand  
Commissioner Craft\* (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)

### **FLAG SALUTE**

Former Commissioner Griffith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **INSPIRATIONAL**

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

*I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.*  
Fred A. Allen

*The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.*  
Winston Churchill

*Resting on your laurels is as dangerous as resting when you are walking in the snow.  
You doze off and die in your sleep.*  
Ludwig Wittgenstein

### **ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Virobik moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of November 8, 2011. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Craft\*)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to approve the minutes, as submitted, of the Commission on Aging meeting of October 11, 2011. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Craft\*)

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA  
Debby Zagorin, First Lutheran Church and School  
Kathleen Davis, Torrance Women's Club  
Dr. Bonnie Shannon, Educational Consultant and Crisis Intervention  
Ardis Shubin, Community Services Specialist, H.E.L.P.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS**

### **A. City Council Activities**

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City Council had discussed the contract for ambulance service in Torrance. She noted that since the current contract had been extended until December, the discussion would continue.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that Councilperson Rhilinger would not be run for a second term in the upcoming election.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that to date two people had filed to run for City Council.

There was a brief discussion on what the cost for ambulance service would be under the new contract.

### **B. Housing**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would check back with Housing Administrator Richardson to ask again which mobile parks were in the subsidy program.

Commissioner Robelotto reported on an article about a company that was building multi-generational housing. Commissioner Virobik stated that she would do some further investigation on the developer.

### **C. Health**

Commissioner Virobik reported on an article on Carson residents who did not have prescription coverage, but were eligible for drug discounts through a program from the National League of Cities. She noted that Torrance was a member of the National League of Cities.

Commissioner Virobik stated that she would email Councilperson Rhilinger and ask her to look into the possibility of a similar program for Torrance.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on an article concerning a lawsuit brought by a mobile home park owner against the City of Carson regarding limits on mobile home rent increases. She noted that Carson had prevailed before the Supreme Court.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported on an article on upgraded and stylish medical devices that were now available.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there would be a program entitled, "Building Blocks for a Good Old Age" presented at Torrance Memorial Medical Center on November 16.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on an article concerning seniors not getting enough nourishment and therefore, being underweight.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the Flu Clinic on November 7 had 430 participants.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that it was likely that the County would not sponsor their mobile flu shot pod this year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Former Commissioner Griffith stated that the cuts to adult daycare programs were still very possible.

There was a discussion on the problem of senior suicide and what current mental health care, support and outreach was available in the community to address the problem and what additional solutions might be possible.

Dr. Bonnie Shannon stated that she would compile a list of available resources and bring the list to the January meeting.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on a group called "Seamless Senior Services" who worked to match and merge various agencies to offer support for seniors. She noted that phone number was 800-510-2020.

#### **D. Transportation**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the City Council had approved the auction of 13 City buses that were over 18 years old. She noted that the City now had 20 compressed natural gas buses and 10 hybrid electric buses; with plans to receive 10-12 more compressed natural gas buses by the spring of 2012.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported on a problem that she had experienced when attempting to obtain senior taxi service vouchers when she did not have a utility bill with her name on it to prove residency.

Ardis Shubin recommended that couples have both names on their utility accounts to avoid problems after the death of a spouse.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that a reminder about utility accounts could be placed in the senior newsletter.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that representatives from the Ambassador Program of the Senior Taxi service would attend the "Seniors, Don't be Scammed!" presentation on November 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

#### **E. Community Programs**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Western Hoe-Down event was successful and well attended.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that the Senior Citizens Holiday Arts and Crafts sale would be held on November 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Commissioner Virobik reminded the Commission of the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program, sponsored by Home Instead, and stated that there would be a tree in the Del Amo Fashion Center.

#### **F. Focal Point Program**

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

##### **October 2011**

Total number of documented calls: 40	Total number of callbacks: 18
Miscellaneous calls: 83	Total number of walk-ins: 21
Total number of calls received: 123	

Of the documented calls:

17.5% were in regard to transportation	35% were for housing
30% were for in home services	17.5% were for legal

## **G. Elder Abuse/Fraud**

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported on an article in the Wall Street Journal concerning investment companies targeting military pensions.

Ardis Shubin stated that there were also groups targeting whole life insurance policies.

Former Commissioner Griffith stated that long term care insurance was now not a part of the National Health bill.

## **ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Kraemer announced that on December 3 and 4th the Drum Barracks in Wilmington would join with the Banning House for a Holiday celebration.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the Torrance Chorale would perform their Christmas program on December 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Armstrong Theater.

Kathleen Davis reported that the Torrance Women's Club volunteers completed 1000 back packs for Operation Teddy Bear, raised \$2000 for the Department of Children and Family Services, and donated \$500 to the "Doors of Hope", a women's shelter. She added that the club would host a Comedy night for \$20 on November 12 at 7:00 p.m. and that club members had volunteered at Fern and Torrance Elementary schools to assist teachers with a reading program.

Commissioner Kraemer reminded the Commission that Torrance Memorial Medical Center would host their Holiday Festival of Trees, with the free Senior Day on December 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commission to vote in the election for El Camino College officials.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the 2 commission appointments would be made on January 24.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reminded the Commission that there would be no December meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted January 10, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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